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SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/SCE, EUR/PGI, AND G/TIP

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TAGS: PGOV PHUM KTIP MK MT
SUBJECT: MACEDONIA: INTERIOR MINISTER PLEDGES CONTINUED FIGHT
AGAINST TIP

REF: SECSTATE 61203

Sensitive but unclassified - please protect accordingly.

(SBU) Charge met with Interior Minister Jankuloska June 19 to formally present the 2008 Trafficking in Persons report. He congratulated the Minister for remaining in Tier One, commended the continued efforts of the Macedonian government to fight TIP, and presented the Minister with a set of specific recommendations for 2009. Chief among these, we expect the GOM to fund the National Referral Mechanism, get the government-run victims' shelter up and running ASAP, and continue to vigorously prosecute and severely punish traffickers. Jankuloska acknowledged the importance of continuing strong efforts against trafficking and welcomed the Tier One ranking as proof of the results Macedonia has delivered. She understands that Macedonia has "big shoes to fill," but said she remains committed and will follow our recommendations. Jankuloska added that Macedonia is open to anti-TIP cooperation with Montenegrin authorities and is willing to share documents and expertise to help build further regional cooperation in dealing with TIP.

NAV RATIL